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25. The method of claim 23 wherein in response to an indication of an alarm condition by the one or more peripheral units, the main control unit processes a status signal from one or more neighboring peripheral units to verify the alarm condition.

REMARKS

A marked up version of the amended claims identifying the additions and deletions to the claims is attached.

The Examiner has cited a new reference, Addy et al., as anticipating the invention claimed in claims 1, 3 to 11 and 13 to 22. The Examiner's asserts that Addy et al. teaches, at column 9, lines 1 to 13, entering data to program the main control unit (console 44) and communicating data from the main control unit to the peripheral devices (remote sensors 21).

The applicant respectfully disagrees. In Addy et al., certain remote sensors 21 are dedicated to transmitting a signal to the wireless distributed receiver 11, and contain only a transmitter, while other remote sensors 21 are dedicated to receiving a signal from the wireless distributed transmitter 13 and contain only a receiver. The former might be, for example, door or window sensors, while the latter might be a garage door opener (which is the example given at column 6, lines 18 to 20). Addy et al. does not teach or suggest that any **one** remote sensor 21 can **both send and receive** signals, to satisfy the claimed condition "one or more of the peripheral units comprising an RF *transceiver*" and "whereby the main control unit communicates data to one or more peripheral devices *to configure or control the peripheral devices*". This is also clear from Figure 3 in Addy et al., which shows only unidirectional transmission from remote sensors 1, 2 and 3 and unidirectional reception from remote sensor 4.

In short, nothing in the prior art teaches or suggests that an *alarm indicating* peripheral unit – i.e. one which is configured with a transmitter to indicate an alarm condition – is also provided with a receiver for receiving control or configuration signals, or both, from the main control unit. This is completely unique and novel, and gives rise to the numerous advantages identified in the disclosure, including at page 3, line 26 to page 4, line 1; and page 17, line 27 to page 19, line 2. Further features such as those recited in claims 5 and 6 arise directly from this ability for bi-

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directional communication between the main control unit and alarm-indicating sensors, and this goes well beyond the capabilities of the prior art.

To clarify that there are sensors in the system of the invention which both transmit and receive a signal, and thus to help distinguish the invention from the prior art, the applicant has amended claim 1 to indicate the function of the rf transceiver: "enabling the one or more of the peripheral units to both *send a signal to the main control unit to indicate an alarm condition, and to receive data from the main control unit for configuring or controlling the one or more peripheral devices.*" This amendment is not necessary in claim 11, which already defines the peripheral units recited therein as alarm indicating sensors, by using the wording "whereby the main control unit receives data from the one or more peripheral units to indicate an alarm condition," which excludes alarm response sensors (such as sirens, door openers etc.). Claims 1 and 11 have also been amended to indicate that data is communicated from the main control unit to the one or more peripheral devices to configure or control the peripheral devices, or both.

Claims 23 to 25 have been added, covering the method of bi-directional communication between the main control unit and the alarm-indicating sensors.

Favourable reconsideration and allowance of this application are respectfully requested.

A Claim Fee Calculation Sheet is enclosed in duplicate. The Commissioner is authorized to charge any deficiency or credit any overpayment in the fees relating to this amendment to our Deposit Account No. 500663. A signed copy of this page is enclosed if required for this purpose.

Executed at Toronto, Ontario, Canada, on October 30, 2002.

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Encl. Duplicate of signature page
Marked up version of amended claims
Claim Fee Calculation sheet (in duplicate)